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Panorama Summer 2016

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PANORAMA

parent newsletter

Summer 2016



Find Your Calling

Most students aren't genocide survivors, but one graduate's story contains universal truths about discovering God's purpose for our lives.

Ananias Sentozi, '16, may not have been in Rwanda during the 1994 genocide, but he certainly felt its effects. When Hutu extremists took arms and slaughtered 800,000 men, women, and children of the Tutsi minority, Sentozi not only lost friends, family, and colleagues—he also lost hope.

“When it was happening, it was dark,” said Sentozi, who was 22 at the time. “There was no light of what was going to happen. We were just surviving for the day without having any hope that tomorrow will come. And even if it did come, you were not sure if you were going to survive.”

For the three months his people were persecuted, Sentozi came to know hopelessness and fear well. But he did not let

them win. When the genocide ended, Sentozi saw the same hopelessness he had experienced in the eyes of others and realized he could help.

“You associate yourself with the suffering,” Sentozi said. “When you see people going through, maybe not exactly the same experience, but almost a close experience, you feel you can actually extend your hand to help them stand up and be able to walk.”

Today, extending a hand to help others is Sentozi's passion. Nothing makes him happier than seeing someone make a difference in their life. This passion is the reason he found employment at World Vision, the reason he started master's courses at Southern, and the reason he became the univer-

sity's first international graduate to march in the on-campus ceremony when he traveled more than 7,000 miles and donned cap and gown in May.

Sentozi's desire to serve is most easily seen through his work with World Vision, an international humanitarian aid organization. Sentozi serves as the regional programs manager in Rwanda, where he oversees projects in two Rwandan provinces and an annual budget of \$12 million. With his staff of 150, he assesses the needs of vulnerable populations in the community and enlists the help of government officials and other partners to create change.

During his time at World Vision, Sentozi has helped change many lives. He has managed a program providing clean water to 20,000 refugees from Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo while working to lower the amount of children suffering from chronic and severe malnutrition. Despite his efforts, however, Sentozi felt a calling to do more. He wanted his work to affect those beyond his region, and he wanted to secure a lasting impact in each targeted community. After some research, he discovered that Southern's Global Community Development (GCD) master's program could help him do both.

“When I looked at the content on the syllabuses, I saw it was fully aligned to development,” Sentozi explained. “It's a program that not only equips you with a local understanding of poverty but also opens you to the global perspectives.”

Sentozi spent the next three years meeting deadlines for online courses while
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“There's no way we can bring social transformation without touching the hearts of the people,” Sentozi said. “It all starts with ... spiritual transformation.”



Timeless Teachings

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

Philippians 4:6



Daniel Olson

Career Services Coordinator

I want my student to have a good summer job and a great first job after graduation. What's the best way for me to help?

It's important to guide students with the knowledge and experience that you as parents have, yet it's also important to let them knock on doors themselves. Here are some tips on how—and how not—to help your student find a job.

Do network. Parents have connections in the workforce that students have not yet made. Helping your student tap into these webs is a great way to assist them in beginning their careers.

Don't make phone calls for them. You may feel as if you're only helping, but making a phone call yourself will not help your student learn the skills it takes to pursue a job alone.

Do help them prepare. Your student may be nervous about an interview. You can help by doing a mock interview and discussing areas for improvement. Talking about appropriate attire and proofing your student's resume are other ways to help.

Don't go to the interview. Wanting to give moral support or to immediately find out how an interview went is understandable, but going with your student doesn't send a positive picture to the prospective employer.

Do let them choose. Your student may have many options to choose from, and you are undoubtedly going to have your own opinions. However, it's important for your student's growth that he or she makes the final decision. Talk things out and help your student make an educated decision, but in the end, it should be his or her choice.

Simplify Summer Transitions

When students leave the residence halls and live with mom and dad for the summer, those on the home front often experience a shift in family dynamics.

College students work to develop time management skills, but often arrive home and find parents who want to know where they're going, why they stayed out so late on the weekend, and every other detail. They've been used to making their own decisions and are now re-entering an atmosphere associated with childhood.

Here are some ways parents can help make the transition home easier.

Set expectations. In his book *Letting Them Go*, Dave Veerman writes, "One of the biggest adjustments will be to your expectations. It would be helpful to communicate ahead of time. Be ready to compromise and to adjust your schedules, and rules (including curfew, visitors, meals, responsibilities, and interactions with the family)."

Create family time. Debi Yohn, author

of *Parenting College Students: 27 Winning Strategies for Success*, suggests you "plan some family time—maybe a family trip and have them help make the plans. Maybe even plan a family reunion. You will not have this luxury once they are on their own and employed."

Volunteer together. "Volunteer at a shelter to make and serve a meal," Yohn said. "Ask the young adult if they have some ideas. It's a bonding experience."

Notice new interests. Students will explore many new interests while at school, and when parents also take notice of a new hobby or pastime, it shows students they really care. One parent we spoke with chose to embrace his daughter's enthusiasm for running and decided to run a 5K with her, despite that activity being out of his comfort zone.

No matter what the summer brings, remember the most important part is that parents reconnect with their students at the stage they are in right now.

Explore Potential Careers

Many college students are in the process of making one of the biggest decisions of their lives: what to do for a career. If your student is among those still deciding, here are some supportive tips that can be applied both during the summer months and in the semesters ahead.

Promote job-shadowing options. Janita Herod, office manager for the School of Journalism and Communication, often acts as an unofficial career adviser to the students who pass through her department between classes or are employed there as student workers. As mother to a recent Southern graduate, she also speaks from personal experience. "I strongly advise them to job-shadow someone in the field they are considering to see if this is a good fit for them," Herod said.

Provide networking opportunities. "I also encourage parents to expose their

students to friends and professionals in the field their student is studying," Herod said. "This helps students connect with people who might be able to provide career advice and assistance in the future."

Direct students to career counseling. William Copland, author of *10 Things Employers Want You to Learn in College*, recommends that students visit the school career counselor. At Southern, this resource is also available to graduates seeking assistance in landing that critical first job. For more information, call 423.236.2078 or email drolson@southern.edu.

Support their choices. While parental advice is important, students are the ones actually taking the steps and making decisions about the future. Parents can be of best use by praying for their students, believing in them, supporting them, and expecting good from them.

Spring Commencement on May 8 highlighted the accomplishments of 456 students—Southern's single largest graduating class to date—who are finishing an important chapter of their lives. But don't be fooled; this is just the beginning. These new alumni have more than enough knowledge and ambition to change the world (this newsletter's cover story offers one such example). Please join us in keeping our new graduates in your prayers as they enter the workforce seeking to pursue not just a career, but a calling.

GRADUATION



MAY 2016



Summer Internships Provide Tuition Assistance

Theology students at Southern have the opportunity to work full time under the mentorship of a church pastor this summer while earning scholarship money toward tuition. The School of Religion's new Summer in Ministry internship program was pilot tested in the Gulf States Conference last year with great success, and now 14 students will spend eight to 12 weeks working for churches throughout the Southern Union.

Junior and senior theology students were eligible to apply, and five have been accepted to work with the Georgia-Cumberland Conference, two with the Florida Conference, one with the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference, four with the Gulf States Conference, and one with the South Central Conference. Intern responsibilities include conducting Bible studies, preaching, and helping plan outreach activities for the church and community.

According to Greg King, PhD, dean for the School of Religion, there are widespread benefits from this internship,



Bryant Rodriguez, left, hugs a newly-baptized church member who responded to the messages he shared during an Evangelism Resource Center trip to Colombia. Rodriguez will earn money toward Southern's tuition while working with a church in Gulf States Conference this summer.

including three in particular: students gain excellent experience in ministry, have the opportunity to confirm their calling, and get a real-world preview of what they'll be doing for a career. But it's not just students who profit from the program. Local churches thrive from the energy and spiritual commitment of these young ministers in training. Plus, Southern Union funding helps facilitate Summer in Ministry intern-

ships, and the program offers ministerial directors a chance to evaluate students and see how they might fit into full-time ministry openings down the road.

In addition, Southern also offers summer scholarships for students who work as literature evangelists or at Adventist summer camps. For more information, please call 423.236.2657.

~Sheann Brandon

Academic Camps Help High School Students

This summer Southern is hosting seven academic camps that bring high school students to the university for an opportunity to explore or sharpen their vocational focus before starting college. Each three-day camp includes a spiritual component as well, modeling for students how Adventist education facilitates the marriage of career and calling.

The School of Journalism and Communication has held Christian Media Camp for the past two years, and students

from across the Southeast and beyond came to learn about photography, blogging, new media, and more. Other academic departments witnessed its success, and this year there will also be summer camps in chemistry, computing, English, filmmaking, modern languages, and math/physics/engineering.

Gone is the traditional image of high school students spending their summer lounging by the pool. Today's youth—and the parents who often help pay for

college—remain open to the idea of spending this coveted “time off” in more constructive ways. But all fun is not lost! During the hours between academic activities and curfew, staff will supervise a variety of recreation activities, both on and off campus.

Journalism camp was held May 23-25; all others run July 25-27. Registration is \$100 for local students or out-of-town students staying with friends and family in the area, and \$150 for those requiring overnight accommodation in one of Southern's apartment buildings reserved exclusively for camp participants. All food, materials, and activity expenses are included in registration.

For students coming from beyond the greater Chattanooga area, vans will provide free transportation both to and from Southern at centralized pick-up locations in Atlanta, Knoxville, and Nashville. Specific details about each camp's topic, lodging details, and recreation activities may be found at southern.edu/camps. For more information, call 423.236.2581.

~Lucas Patterson



“Our favorite part of the journalism camp every year is seeing high school students awaken to new ways they can use their gifts for God's glory,” said Assistant Professor Kendra Stanton Lee (pictured here with last year's campers).

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juggling his duties at World Vision. Though the balancing act presented a challenge, Sentozi also called his time as both manager and student an advantage. Each semester, he was able to reflect on what he learned and apply the lessons to his work with vulnerable communities.

"It has both academic and practical value," Sentozi said. "It's not just something that you're going to do philosophy around; it's real in the community, and you gain a number of tools."

One of the many lessons Sentozi found applicable to his work as a developmental practitioner is self-sustainability. In true "teach a man to fish" fashion, the GCD program at Southern helps students learn to train communities to manage their own projects, a trend Sentozi said World Vision has been working toward.

For the last few years, Sentozi said, the organization has simply provided aid to communities, inadvertently keeping them reliable on handouts from good Samaritans. With the help of his newfound knowledge, however, his region is shifting toward "community empowerment programs," where World Vision staff assess what the community has and what they're able to do, and then help it kick-start its own projects. In one such program, the staff meets with community members weekly to teach them how to save money so they can start their own small businesses.

Sentozi has applied several other lessons from his courses to his work—such as crafting business plans to create measurable economic and social benefits—but he said the most valuable part of his Southern experience was learning how to integrate faith in development.

"There's no way we can bring social transformation without touching the hearts of the people," Sentozi said. "It all starts with mindset change and spiritual transformation. When people don't know their real essence of being, when they cannot connect with God, neighbors, and their environment, it's very difficult to think of long-term or sustainable development. God has prepared me to serve Him anywhere in the world."

~Myron Madden

UPCOMING EVENTS

JULY

10 Ocoee River Rafting Trip

The Southern Outdoor Adventure Program organizes several trips each year. This July there are two trips to the nearby Ocoee River (the second is July 24). For details, email soap@southern.edu.

17 Women's Self Defense Class

This program is offered by Campus Safety at no cost to participants. For details, call 423.236.2100.

25 Academic Camps for High School Students

Do you have students at home that still attend high school? Know of any students at your church or in your neighborhood who could benefit from career exploration? See the article inside this newsletter for a full listing of options available July 25-27.

25 Summer Session 2 Begins

Numerous online courses are available for both undergraduate and graduate curriculums. Prospective students must apply and be accepted before registering. Sign up for classes no later than July 27 by visiting southern.edu/register.

Southern Hosting Global Missions Forum July 14-17

Southern is eager to support individuals and groups in mission work. Topics covered during the forum include engineering and infrastructure, agriculture and food security, enterprise and sustainability, emergency response, human rights and social justice, health and wellness, urban ministries, and logistics. Come see what a 21st-century missionary looks like! Connect with people from across the North American Division and become equipped to make a greater difference in your local communities and abroad. To register, visit facebook.com/mgcdsouthern.